



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Washington, DC 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:
7202.4-OS-2018-00959

October 26, 2018

Via email: ychi@earthjustice.org

Yuting Chi
Earthjustice
633 17th Street, Suite 1600
Denver, CO 80202

Re: Sierra Club and Friends of the Earth v. U.S. Department of the Interior, 3:18-cv-03799

Dear Ms. Chi:

On April 2, 2018, Ms. Marta Darby of Sierra Club and Ms. Nicole Ghio of Friends of the Earth filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request seeking the following:

1. All records reflecting any communication, written or verbal, to any Chief FOIA Officer, Department FOIA Policy Staff, FOIA and Privacy Act Appeals Officer, Bureau FOIA Officer, FOIA Officer, Action Office, Office of the Secretary FOIA Officer, Electronic FOIA tracking system user, FOIA Public Liaison, Records Management Officer, or employee, in any program, office, regional office, department, bureau, or other subdivision within Interior, concerning any policies, procedures, guidelines, protocols, directives, or other instructions on the processing, assignment, handling, or disposition of FOIA requests received by Interior. These include but are not limited to records regarding the release of records, determinations regarding fee waiver requests, assignment to Action Offices, processing within Action Offices, collection and review of responsive records, approvals to release or withhold records, claims of exemption, or instructions to subject matter experts;
2. All records reflecting any communication, written or verbal, involving the Office of the Secretary, Office of the Solicitor, Head of Bureau, Director, or Deputy Director, concerning the handling, processing, or disposition of FOIA requests;
3. All records reflecting any communication, written or verbal, involving the designated Chief FOIA Officer at Interior, concerning the handling, processing, or disposition of FOIA requests;
4. All records reflecting any communication, written or verbal, between any representative of the Department's FOIA program and any FOIA Officer, Department FOIA Policy Staff, FOIA Public Liaison, the Chief FOIA Officer at

Interior, Head of Bureau, Bureau FOIA Officer, the Office of General Counsel, Bureau Office, Action Office, or the Office of Inspector General, concerning the handling, processing, or disposition of FOIA requests; and

5. All records reflecting any communication, written or verbal, to or from the designated Chief FOIA Officer at Interior, or any other FOIA Officer, concerning instituting a process for review of FOIA responses by the Interior's Office of the Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs prior to their release.

Ms. Darby's and Ms. Ghios' request was received by the Office of the Secretary FOIA office on April 2, 2018, and acknowledged on April 13, 2018. We provided an initial partial response to Ms. Darby's and Ms. Ghios' request on August 30, 2018. We provided a second partial response to Ms. Darby's and Ms. Ghios' request on October 1, 2018. We provided a third partial response to Ms. Darby's and Ms. Ghios' request on October 22, 2018.

We are writing today to provide a fourth partial response to Ms. Darby's and Ms. Ghios' request, as clarified through subsequent discussions, and pursuant to our search and production agreement. Additional records will arrive under separate cover. We have enclosed one file consisting of 16 pages, which are entirely being released in full.

Rachel Spector, Attorney-Advisor, in the Office of the Solicitor, was consulted in reaching this decision. Clarice Julka, Office of the Secretary FOIA Officer, is responsible for making this decision.

If you have any questions about our response to your request, you may contact Pamela Johann, Assistant United States Attorney, by phone at (415) 436-7025 or by email at Pamela.Johann@usdoj.gov.

Sincerely,

Clarice Julka
Office of the Secretary
FOIA Officer

Electronic Enclosures